

Young palms were noted among the ruins of Nakum with petioles much longer and more slender than those of the adult palm at Laguna Colorada. Also, in the young palms the pinnae are relatively broader than in the adult, 1.5 to 2 cm. wide with a length of 18 to 20 cm. An injured leaf of a young palm growing on a ruined temple at Uaxactun showed a special enlargement of the basal pulvini, so that the pinnae stood nearly at right angles to the rachis instead of the usual angle of about 50 to 60 degrees in young palms, or about 40 degrees in adults.

Since northern Petén has a dry season sufficiently long and severe to throw most of the vegetation into a dormant condition, it seems not unreasonable to expect that *Opsandra* may prove somewhat resistant in more temperate climates and possibly adapted to household cultivation or to outdoor conditions in Florida or California. As a popular name the expression "Maya palm" might be used, in view of the habitat and frequent association with the ancient ruins.

ZOOLOGY.—*A new frog of the genus Leptodactylus.*¹ DORIS M. COCHRAN, National Museum. (Communicated by Dr. L. STEJNEGER.)

A collection of reptiles and batrachians recently sent to the United States National Museum by Dr. W. L. Abbott contains an interesting new frog, of which I have prepared the following description:

***Leptodactylus dominicensis*, sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Toes without distinct dermal margins; tongue heart-shaped; tympanum half the width of the eye; vomerine teeth in two long curved series behind the choanae; snout pointed, depressed, with a sharp edge.

Type.—U. S. N. M. No. 65670, Las Cañitas, Dominican Republic; February 25, 1923; Dr. W. L. Abbott, collector.

Description of type specimen.—Vomerine teeth in two long curved series beginning behind the middle of the choanae, separated by the width of the choanae; tongue moderate in size, heart-shaped; snout pointed, depressed, sharp-edged, declining rapidly from the eyes to the tip; when viewed in profile, upper lip projects considerably beyond lower lip; canthus rostralis sloping and very indistinct; nostrils a little nearer to end of snout than to eye; tympanum longer than high, its greatest diameter very slightly more than half the diameter of eye; interorbital space equals width of upper eyelid; first finger much longer than second, which equals fourth; toes slightly webbed at base; third much longer than fifth; subarticular tubercles well developed; numerous smaller tubercles in series on the sole; two metatarsal tubercles, the inner connected with a very distinct tarsal fold; heels just touching when hind limbs are folded at right angles to axis of body; tarso-metatarsal joint reaching anterior border of tympanum when hind limbs are carried forward along the body; skin smooth above and below; numerous small, pointed glands on the outer surface of the tibia; a narrow dorso-lateral glandular fold, and a few elongate glands on the sides; a strong glandular fold from posterior angle

¹ Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

of eye over tympanum to shoulder; ventral disk plainly marked by dermal folds.

Dimensions.—Tip of snout to vent, 36 mm.; tip of snout to posterior edge of tympanum, 13 mm.; greatest width of head, 13 mm.; fore leg from axilla, 19 mm.; hind leg from vent to heel, 26 mm.; hind leg from vent to tip of fourth toe, 49 mm.

Coloration (in alcohol).—Body dark bluish-gray above, becoming lighter on the sides; the sharp rim on the snout white; the head dark gray with a blackish bar between the eyes; a black band from eye across tympanum to shoulder; arms and legs light with darker bands and markings; a white line on the posterior femur; underside whitish, the throat finely sprinkled with pale gray.

Remarks.—This frog is closely related to *Leptodactylus albilabris* from Porto Rico. The snout is shorter and broader, and the projecting edge on the upper lip is far more pronounced. Then, too, the hind legs are shorter, and the examination of the mouth reveals a deeply incised tongue, while the tongue of *L. albilabris* is only slightly nicked behind.

ZOOLOGY.—A new lizard of the genus *Sceloporus*.¹ DORIS M. COCHRAN, National Museum. (Communicated by Dr. L. STEJNEGER.)

While identifying the lizards collected in Mexico by the Biological Survey and now in the United States National Museum, I came upon a species of *Sceloporus* which seems to be new to science.

Sceloporus nelsoni sp. nov.

Diagnosis.—Lateral scales directed obliquely upwards and backwards, and passing gradually into the dorsals; series of femoral pores widely separated, not meeting on the preanal region; tail strongly compressed; head-shields smooth; two rows of granular scales between supraoculars and supraciliaries; femoral pores 15 to 20.

Type.—U. S. N. M. No. 47676; Plomosas, Sinaloa, Mexico; July 18, 1897; Nelson and Goldman, collectors.

Description.—Head-shields smooth; frontal ridges fairly prominent; frontal transversely divided, in contact with the interparietal, which is a little broader than long; a single large parietal shield on each side of the interparietal; fronto-parietals in contact with last two supraoculars; two canthal scales; five transverse supraoculars, bordered inwards by an incomplete series of small scales, and separated from the supraciliaries by two rows of almost granular scales; five scales, not larger than those before them, form a denticulation on the anterior border of the ear; dorsal scales much larger than ventrals, strongly keeled, mucronate, forming slightly converging series; 35 scales between the interparietal shield and the base of the tail; 9 scales, taken in the middle of the back, correspond to the length of the head; ventral scales small, smooth, bi- or tricuspoid; about 36 scales around the middle of the body; the adpressed hind limb reaches between ear and eye; tibia as long as distance between end of snout and ear; the distance between base of

¹ Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.